



PRESS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation
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FORMER TUCSON LOAN OFFICER FOUND GUILTY IN MORTGAGE FRAUD SCHEME

TUCSON, Ariz. – Michael Quiroz, of Tucson, Arizona, after a trial of eleven days, was found guilty of one count of Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud and four counts of Wire Fraud by a federal jury on January 27, 2017.

The evidence established that Quiroz, who was a loan officer at the time, was involved in a multi-year, multi-million dollar cash back mortgage fraud conspiracy involving the use of straw buyers. The co-conspirators, including the defendant, recruited straw buyers to purchase residential properties at inflated prices. The defendant was the loan officer/mortgage broker who played a key role during the mortgage fraud conspiracy in qualifying the straw buyers to obtain the fraudulent loans. The methods used to obtain the loans included phony lease agreements, fake letters of employment, false statements of intent to occupy a property as a primary residence, or other false representations about assets/income.

The defendant further obtained multiple fraudulent loans with the same straw buyer at approximately the same time frame without disclosing the existence of the loans to the lenders. Many of the properties purchased during the mortgage fraud conspiracy went into foreclosure due to failure to make the mortgage payments.

Sentencing is scheduled for April 14, 2017. The investigation in this case was conducted by Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation.

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